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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY China

DATE 25X1A

INFO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Political Information: Unification of
Aw Boon Haw's Newspaper Chain

DIST. 4 November 1946

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN [REDACTED]

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1. Since V-J Day, Mr. Hu Jen-hu (胡天光) has been making frequent trips between Singapore and Hongkong. Besides trying to unify the Overseas Chinese in the South Sea Islands, invest money in the reconstruction of Fukien Province, and re-establish his Yung-on Tang Tiger Palm Company, he is also going to improve the "Hsing" newspaper chain....

2. Mr. Hu originated the "Hsing" newspaper chain only for his own cultural and commercial advancement. He has never definitely voiced his political opinions in his newspapers; therefore, the political policies of the "Hsing" newspapers have never been unified. The political opinions of the local editor and the local political situation often determine the political attitude of the "Hsing" newspapers. Mr. Hu himself takes no part in it.

3. When the Sino-Japanese war started, the Hsing Tao Daily (星島日報), the newest newspaper published by the "Hsing" newspaper chain, appeared in Hongkong. At that time, Hongkong was not only the "happy haven" for the "upper class" Chinese but also the only place for progressive cultural workers to go, and where the controlling class was in direct conflict with the progressive class even in cultural activities. Under such conditions the Hsing Tao Daily, which had no definite political policy, became the prey of all political parties, which were constantly trying to influence its editorials. Hence the trend

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of the editorials of the Hsing Tao Daily changed each time its editor was replaced.

4. Knowing that the political inclinations of the "Hsing" newspapers were not the same, some of the far-sighted associates of Mr. Hu suggested that the administration and opinions expressed in the "Hsing" newspaper chain be unified; plans were made to set up a Central Administrative Bureau for the "Hsing" newspapers and to increase the number of the "Hsing" newspapers to eighteen. Shortly afterwards, the Pacific War broke out, and the "Hsing" newspapers were forced to suspend publication....

5. As a result of the change in the ways of thinking since the war the ideas and policies of the "Hsing" newspapers are more varied than ever. The Hsing Tao Daily rebukes the Communists every day, while the Hsing Pin Daily is constantly discrediting the Kuomintang. The Hsing Ching Daily is comparatively liberal. The two newspapers in China Fiping Hsin Daily and Hsing Kuang Daily, must support the policies of the Central government, because non-KMT papers in China are liable to suppression.

6. Their differences in policy not only surprise the readers but also worry Mr. Hu Wen-hu himself, who admits that the "Hsing" newspapers are in need of a reorganization. Thus the old plans for unifying the "Hsing" newspapers have been revived. The political trends of the "Hsing" newspapers will follow that of the Kuomintang. They are going to support Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and the Central Government, but they will be more or less liberal like the Ta Kung Pao.

7. The first step is to re-organize the Hsing Tao Daily and the Hsing Pin Daily. Staff-members who lean too much to the left or too much to the right will be dismissed. The second step is to call a meeting of the managers and editors of all the "Hsing" newspapers on 10 October 1946 in Hongkong to discuss the adoption of an over-all policy and a net-work of news-gathering, and to set up a Central Bureau of Administration to control and to further the development of the "Hsing" newspapers. The first new "Hsing" paper to be established will be the Hsing Min Daily (新民日報) in Foochow (福州). Hu Hong-chou (胡鴻洲), the manager of the Foochow Branch of the Yung-on Tang Tiger Balm Company, will be responsible for the preparatory work of this new publication. The first issue will be published on New Year's day 1947. The development of the "Hsing" newspapers in Fukien will be of great importance to Mr. Hu Wen-hu because he has become very interested in the post-war reconstruction of Fukien Province [his native province]. He has collected a capital of CHC\$30,000,000,000 and has organized a company to invest in Fukien.

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